

Message Text

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ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /022 W

----- 007692

R 020715Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3536

INFO CHUSMTM DHAHRAN

SECDEF

USAFS RIYADH

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 0729

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, MASS, SA, US

SUBJECT: ADVANCED FIGHTER ORIENTATION TRIP FOR SAUDI AIR FORCE

REF USMTM 281347Z (NOTAL)

1. THE SAUDI MINDEF HAS FORMED A TECHNICAL TEAM COMPOSED OF FIVE (5) ROYAL SAUDI AIR FORCE (RSAF) OFFICERS TO EVALUATE AND RECOMMEND AN ADVANCED FIGHTER AIRCRAFT TO REPLACE BRITISH-MADE LIGHTNINGS IN LATE CY78. GROUP WAS FORMED TO FOLLOW UP ON DOD BRIEFINGS ON F-14, F-15, F-16 AND F-18 IN LATE OCTOBER 75.

2. THE COMMITTEE CONSISTS OF:

(A) MAJ IBRAHIM AHMED GHOLAN, COMMANDER MAINTENANCE SECTION, DHAHRAN AIR BASE

(B) CAPTAIN (PRINCE) TURKI BIN NAZER BIN ABDUL AZIZ, DHAHRAN AIR BASE

(C) CAPT GHAZI DARWISH, PILOT, 6TH SQUADRON, LIGHTNING, KHAMIS MUSHAYT AB

(D) 1LT ABDUL HAY BASHI, ELECTRONICS, DHAHRAN AB

(E) 1LST RAFAT BAKR NAZER, ARMAMENT, DHAHRAN AIR BASE

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3. REFTEL ADDRESSEE ASKED SECDEF FOR REPLY ASAP TO REQUEST THAT THESE FIVE OFFICERS VISIT CONUS FOR ORIENTATION TOUR OF CONTRACTOR FACILITIES AND, IF POSSIBLE, OF OPERATIONAL FIGHTER BASES.

4. WE CONCUR WITH CHUSMTM AND RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF VISIT BY RSAF TEAM TO KEEP MOMENTUM OF SAUDI INTEREST IN PURCHASING US AIRCRAFT SYSTEM FOR ITS NEXT GENERATION OF FIGHTERS. AS DEPT IS AWARE DEPMINDEF PRINCE TURKI AND RSAF COMMANDER LTG ZUHAIR HAVE VISITED BRITAIN WHERE THEY WERE GIVEN FULL SHOWING OF JAGUAR.
PORTER

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